Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 /087 W

R 090743Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8735
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 4649

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJECT: SITHOLE CALLS FOR NATIONAL BLACK CONFERENCE

1. ACCORDING TO SEPTEMBER 8 SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORT FROM SALISBURY, NDABANINGI SITHOLE ANNOUNCED ON SEPT 7 THAT HE WILL SPONSOR A CONFERENCE SEPT 17 OF 200 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 50 BLACK ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE "ANGLO-AMERICAN" PROPOSALS. CONFERENCE INVITEE LIST INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF MUZOREWA, NKOMO AND MUGABE IN ADDITION TO THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS, BLACK BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS, LABOR GROUPS, 16 CHURCHES, MORAL REARMAMENT, THE MINISTERS' FRATERNALS OF SALISBURY AND BULAWAYO, THE YMCA AND YWCA, THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODESIA AND ITS STUDENT COUNCIL, THE AFRICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, THE AFRICAN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, THE BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATIONS OF RHODESIA. SITHOLE PLANS ON MAKING A SIMILAR APPROACH CONFIDENTIAL.

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TO WHITE ORGANIZATIONS SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

2. A NKOMO SPOKESMAN IN SALISBURY REPORTEDLY REJECTED THE INVITATION AND NOTED "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED. IT WILL BE UNITY BETWEEN SITHOLE AND SITHOLE". A MUZOREWA REPRESENTATIVE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THE UANC PROBABLY WOULD NOT ATTEND.

3. COMMENT: SITHOLE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD WITHIN RHODESIA IN SUPPORTING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND IDENTIFYING HIMSELF WITH IT. THE CALL FOR A BLACK CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER THE SUBJECT AGAIN GIVES HIM THE INITIATIVE OVER MUZOREWA. IF THE CONFERENCE ACTUALLY MATERIALIZES, IT COULD STRENGTHEN HIS HAND POLITICALLY AS WELL AS IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH.

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